

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-14 and 19-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 have been withdrawn. Dependent claims 20 and 22 have been amended slightly to avoid indefinite language identified in the last office action. These amendments do not raise issues that would require further consideration or searching by the Examiner. Accordingly, entry of these amendments after final rejection is solicited.

Claims 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph in view of the indefinite term "rod-like".

The objectionable phrase has been deleted and the lock member now is defined as being "rod-shaped".

The claims were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the newly cited U.S. Patent No. 5,007,164 to Kato. The Examiner identified the method steps taught by Kato and compared those method steps to language presented in the claims prior to this amendment.

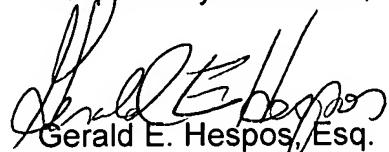
Kato relates to an apparatus and method for mounting a rubber plug 2 on the end of a wire 10. It appears that the rubber plugs 2 are fed down a helical ramp of a parts feeder 1. A mechanical apparatus 3 then is employed in a way that is not clearly described in Kato to somehow move the plugs 2 sequentially from the feeder 1 to the inlet end of an air transfer device 4. Compressed air of about 4 kgf/cm² then transports the plugs 2 so that each "plug 2 flies like a bullet of an air gun through the air transfer device 4" (col. 4, lines 50-51). A tubular nozzle 5 is mounted to the outlet end of the tubular air transfer device 4 and the interior of the nozzle 5 is formed with a spiral groove 5c. The

compressed air urges the plugs 2 sequentially through the tubular air transfer device 4 and each "plug 2 is given rotation by the spiral groove 5c of the guide nozzle 5". The plug 2 then effectively is spun onto the end of the wire 10 that is fixed in the nozzle 5.

Kato does not suggest "a locking step of bringing the seal member to a locked state in the seal cavity so that the seal member is prevented from moving along the axis line." To the contrary, the plug 2 "flies like bullet" and "is given rotation by the spiral groove" to effectively twist onto the wire. Kato does not suggest "an inserting step of inserting the electric wire into the seal member along the axis line while the seal member is in the locked state." Accordingly, it is submitted that applicants' invention is not taught by Kato. Kato certainly is not enabling for the invention defined by previously presented claims 13 and 21. Furthermore, there is nothing in Kato that would motivate the skilled artisan to completely redesign Kato in a way that would bring Kato closer to the claimed invention.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicants attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066

Customer No. 001218

CASELLA & HESPOS LLP

274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703

New York, NY 10016

Tel. (212) 725-2450

Fax (212) 725-2452

Date: May 1, 2007